

Activity Type

Grammar Game: forming sentences from prompts (group work)

Focus

Present continuous for arrangements

Be going to for future plans

Explaining with *so* and *because*

Aim

To practice expressing and explaining future plans using *be going to* and definite arrangements using the present continuous, while also practicing *so* and *because* for giving reasons.

Preparation

Make one copy of the game board for each group of three or four. Enlarge to A3 if possible. Also, provide a dice and counters for each group.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this *be going to* and present continuous board game, students use prompts to give explanations about future plans and arrangements.

Procedure

Tell the students that they are going to play a board game where they invent future plans and arrangements using *be going to* and the present continuous.

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a copy of the game board, a dice and counters.

All the students place their counters on the start square.

Students take turns rolling the dice and moving their counters along the board.

Explain to students that when they land on a square with a prompt, they should complete it with either *be going to* for general future plans or the present continuous for definite arrangements with fixed times.

For prompts ending with *because...*, students should explain the reason for their plan or arrangement. For prompts ending with *so...*, students should explain the consequence or result of the situation.

For time-related prompts like *Next weekend...* or *Tomorrow morning...*, students should create a complete sentence about their plans or arrangements for that time.

Examples:

'I don't have much money, so I'm going to get a part-time job at the mall.' (*be going to* for a future plan)

'I can't meet you tomorrow because I'm having dinner with my parents at 7pm.' (present continuous for a definite arrangement)

'Next weekend, I'm going to clean my apartment and study for exams.' (*be going to* for general plans)

'Tomorrow morning, I'm meeting my teacher at 9:30.' (present continuous for a fixed arrangement)

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The Explanation Game

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Procedure continued

If you want to make the game harder, tell the students that they must talk for 30 seconds, so they produce a number of sentences based on the situation or topic.

The other students in the group judge the student's explanation and use of future forms.

If the response is appropriate, the student stays on the square.

If a student makes a mistake or cannot think of an explanation, they go back two spaces.

If the other students are unsure, they can ask you for help.

The first student to reach the finish square wins the game.

The Explanation Game

FINISH	34 Next weekend...	33 I have to be at the airport at 3 p.m. because...	32 I don't understand my English homework, so...
28 I'm nervous about tomorrow because...	29 Tomorrow morning...	30 The house is a mess, so...	31 I'm very happy because...
27 Miss a turn	26 I can't meet you tomorrow because...	25 I need to start doing more exercise, so...	24 It's a lovely day outside, so...
20 I want to improve my English, so...	21 I'm very tired, so...	22 I'm moving house because...	23 Tonight at eight, I'm...
19 I need to go shopping because...	18 Next month...	17 Move forward 1 space	16 I'm meeting my best friend after class...
12 I'm not feeling very well, so...	13 I have to wake up early tomorrow because...	14 After class...	15 I've just booked my holiday...
11 It's Joshua's birthday tomorrow, so...	10 My car's broken down again so...	9 Miss a turn	8 I have a busy day tomorrow because...
4 Go forward 2 spaces	5 Next year...	6 I'm so excited because...	7 I can't come to class tomorrow because...
3 On Saturday afternoon...	2 After breakfast ...	1 I don't have much money, so...	START